

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3479

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV PINT AO

SUBJECT: SAVIMBI ARRIVES IN LUANDA

1. UNITA PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI ARRIVED IN LUANDA AT 1:15 PM, APRIL 26, A FEW HOURS AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS ELDEST CHILD. THE ARRIVAL WAS NOT MARRED BY MAJOR INCIDENTS, THE AIRPORT CROWD, 95 PERCENT BLACK, WAS LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. ARRIVING BY A CHARTERED JET, SAVIMBI WAS GREETED BY UNITA PERSONNEL IN THE AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE THEN MOTORED TO THE PALACE WHERE HE WAS GREETED OUTSIDE BY A CROWD COMPOSED EQUALLY OF BLACKS AND WHITES. INSIDE SAVIMBI WAS WELCOMED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE THREE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS: N'DELE (UNITA), LOPO DO NASCIMENTO (MPLA) AND JOHNNY EDUARDO (FNLA). SAVIMBI, ALONG WITH OTHER UNITA OFFICIALS HAD DINNER WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND PORTUGUESE MILITARY OFFICERS APRIL 26.

3. SUNDAY AFTERNOON SAVIMBI SPOKE BEFORE A SOCCER STADIUM CROWD ESTIMATED AT 40,000. HIS MAJOR POINTS:

A. "NO TO VIOLENCE." ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ARMING ANGOLANS DURING THE WAR WAS NECESSARY AND PROPER, SAVIMBI ASKED: "ARMING THE PEOPLE NOW --- AGAINST WHOM?" PRESSING THE POINT, SAVIMBI REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE THAT ANGOLA'S RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE IS FULLY RECOGNIZED AND ASKED "WHO IS THE ENEMY NOW?"

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B. ELECTIONS. SAVIMBI OFFERED A DISTRICTION BETWEEN ELECTIONS IN PORTUGAL AND IN ANGOLA, SAYING THAT WHILE THE PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS ARE TO CHOOSE LEFT, RIGHT OR CENTER, IN ANGOLA THEY ARE TO SELECT THE MOVEMENT ENTITLED TO HAVE THE MOST VOICE IN THE GOVERNMENT. NOTING THE LACK OF ELECTORAL PREPARATION HE SAID "UNITA IS WILLING TO DISCUSS AT ANY TIME THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A UNITED FRONT (I.E. NO ELECTIONS).

C. SOCIALISM. COMMUNISM AND THE NEED FOR FOREIGN CAPITAL. "SOCIALISM OUGHT TO BE FREE, DEMOCRATIC AND HUMAN. IT SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH TOTALITARIAN COMMUNISM." ANGOLA NEEDS FOREIGN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY. FOREIGN CAPITAL WILL ONLY FLOW HERE UNDER TWO CONDITIONS: POLITICAL TRANQUILITY AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPATRIATE PROFITS. AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPELL OUT RULES FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE SHOULD GET A FAIR SHARE.

4. SAVIMBI'S PRESS CONFERENCE:

A. LIBERATION GROUP SUMMIT: HE SAID HE IS IN FAVOR BUT PUSHED THE IDEA MUCH MORE SOFTLY THAN HE HAS PREVIOUSLY.

B. THREE ARMIES: SAVIMBI REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT THE COUNTRY CANNOT LIVE WITH THREE COMPETING ARMIES AND SAID THAT A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" WAS NECESSARY.

C. CABINDA/CUNENE: SAVIMBI ONLY ALLUDED TO POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH ZAIRE OVER CABINDA. ON NAMIBIA HE REITERATED THAT UNITA IS NOT IN A POSITION TO HELP SWAPO.

D. THE CHURCH: "AS A CHRISTIAN, THE QUESTION OF THE CHURCH'S ACTION (AND ROLE IN ANGOLA) IS DIFFICULT." SAVIMBI WENT ON TO SAY THE RECORD WAS MIXED BUT THAT FOR HIM ON BALANCE THE CHURCH HAS BEEN AND CAN BE A POSITIVE FORCE. IN CLOSING HE MADE A PITCH FOR ECUMENISM, SAYING THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IS NOT AN ENEMY OF CATHOLICISM.

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